

Linwood, PA—Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) attended and spoke at the Pennsylvania Fire Police Association Bi-Monthly Meeting at the Lower Chichester Fire Company. In his remarks, Joe spoke about beginning his Naval career as a Fire Marshall, where he was trained at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard Firefighting School, and about providing the necessary safety, equipment, and training for first responders. — "9/11 brings back to us how important fire fighters, fire police, and other first responders are as the frontline to protecting our nation's homeland security," said Congressman Sestak, "Our unconscious appreciation for firefighters, prior to 9/11, became ever conscious as we saw such heroism on that fateful day. It is critical that we support our first responders, and provide them with the necessary equipment and resources they need to protect our communities."

The Pennsylvania Fire Police Association meeting drew over 100 attendees, including local and state representatives and other special guests. The event began with a prayer and flag salute, followed by introductory and welcome remarks of local dignitaries, speeches by special guests, and ended with a business meeting and reception.

"On Memorial Day, I spoke at a dedication of a new veterans memorial. Not only were the five branches of the Armed Services--the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard--recognized on granite markers, but also on equal granite markers were firefighters and police first responders. This showed that in defending our nation that there is one force that serves both overseas and at home," said Congressman Sestak.

Congressman Sestak has been a strong supporter of our nation's firefighters and fire police, and is a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, which is critically important to him since he began his career as a Fire Marshall.

The Pennsylvania Fire Police Association is an umbrella group that represents over 30,000 fire police officers across the state. Fire police officers protect emergency personnel, vehicles, and equipment from damage, control the actions of a crowd and traffic, and are responsible for ensuring for everyone's safety during an emergency.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.